

Attorney Docket No. 13054-218A

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

In the first Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 1-10 under 35 U.S. C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Macnaughtan et al., "NMR Difference Probe," *Journal of Magnetic Resonance*, 156, 97-103 (2002). The Examiner also indicated that Figure 1 should be marked as prior art.

Applicants submit herewith a copy of the cover page, copyright page and table of contents for the journal issue in question indicating a publication date of May 2002. The present application has an effective filing date of April 15, 2003. Applicants submit that, to the extent that the cited Macnaughtan et al. article describes the claimed subject matter, it describes their invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections relying on the Macnaughtan et al. article, and withdraw the objection to Figure 1.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney if it would help advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



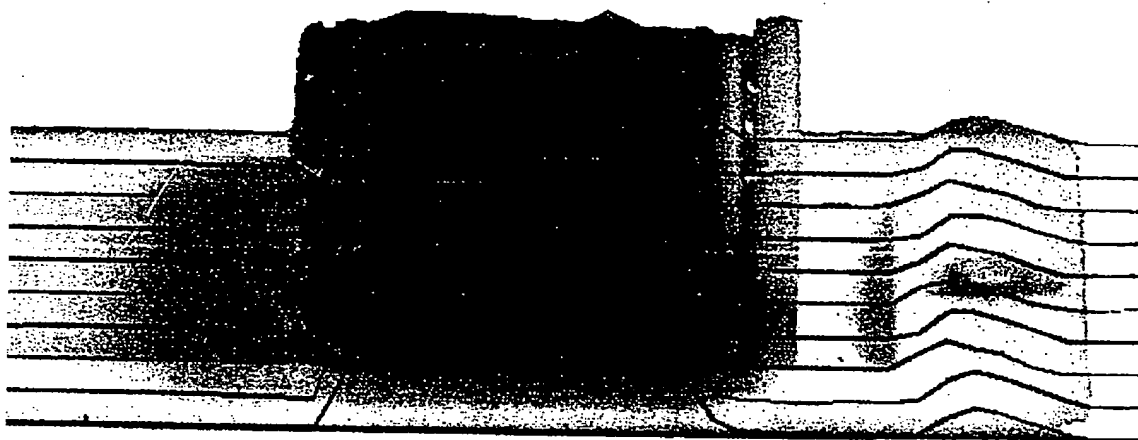
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Volume 156, Number 1, May 2002

JMARF3  
ISSN 1090-7807

# JMR

Journal of Magnetic Resonance



James J. Opella



ACADEMIC PRESS

An imprint of Elsevier Science

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## JOURNAL OF MAGNETIC RESONANCE

Volume 156, Number 1, May 2002

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1090-7807/02 \$35.00

MADE IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

This journal is printed on acid-free paper.



## JOURNAL OF MAGNETIC RESONANCE

(ISSN 1090-7807)

Published monthly by Elsevier Science (USA). Editorial and Production Offices: 525 B Street, Suite 1900, San Diego, CA 92101-4495.  
Accounting and Circulation Offices: 6277 Sea Harbor Drive, Orlando, FL 32887-4900

2002: Volumes 154-159. Price: \$3087.00 U.S.A. and Canada; \$3407.00 all other countries  
All prices include postage and handling.

Information concerning personal subscription rates may be obtained by writing to the Publishers. All correspondence, permission requests, and subscription orders should be addressed to the office of the Publishers at 6277 Sea Harbor Drive, Orlando, FL 32887-4900 (telephone: 407-345-2000). Send notices of change of address to the office of the Publishers at least 6 to 8 weeks in advance. Please include both old and new addresses. POSTMASTER: Send changes of address to *Journal of Magnetic Resonance*, 6277 Sea Harbor Drive, Orlando, FL 32887-4900. Periodicals postage paid at Orlando, FL, and at additional mailing offices.

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**Cover Art.** Proton density drying profiles over the course of one day of a low water content soil sample generated with a half-k-space SPRITE imaging method as described in the article by Mastikhin *et al.* on pp. 122-130 of this issue.

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